

largely exceeding four hundred thousand dollars, and she has since become the holder and owner of these preferred bonds which with interest due thereon, amount to over three hundred and twenty thousand dollars. And the State of Virginia, upon the memorial of the Canal Company and upon the opinion and advice of the Attorney General of Maryland, as far back as 1849, endorsed and guaranteed the bonds of the Company to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars for repairs, upon which she has already paid interest to the amount of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars. Virginia therefore is interested in the preferred debt secured by this mortgage as creditor and guarantor to the extent of over one million two hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and the whole debt due by the Company on account of these preferred bonds and interest unpaid thereon, now exceed four millions of dollars.

The General Assembly of Maryland, having become satisfied that the interest of the State, as well as of the bondholders could only be secured by giving the bondholders an influential share in the management of a work whose whole revenue must for many years belong to them exclusively, passed at the January session, 1867, "An Act entitled, an Act to authorize the Board of Public Works to vote the stock of the State in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company for a President and four Directors upon the nomination of the holders of the preferred bonds of said Company; the object of which, is explicitly set forth in its title and preamble."

This Act requires the Board of Public Works at the first general meeting of Stockholders, to cast the Stockholder vote of the State: first for its acceptance, and then for a President and four Directors as nominees of the Trustees of the preferred Bondholders.

Under this law, the General Assembly intended that the preferred Bondholders should exercise that influence in the management of the Canal Company and its works which was due to their paramount interest therein, until their debt was paid off or secured to be paid off, by a sinking fund, the creation and management of which was particularly provided for in said Act of Assembly, and the Stockholders and preferred Bondholders hoped at last to be repaid their great sacrifices, the latter by the payment of their debt, the former by relieving their property of a destructive incumbrance consisting of these bonds, and ultimately, from the burden of the many millions of dollars due the State of Maryland.

And your memorialists respectfully represent that by the charter of the said Canal Company the annual meetings of the Stockholders thereof are required to be held on the first Monday of June, and that at said meetings a President and